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General and complete disarmament: transparency in armaments

Egypt, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan and Swaziland: revised draft resolution

Transparency in armament

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, Member States have undertaken to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources,

Considering the urgent need to accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament with a view to maintaining regional and international peace and security in a world free from the scourge of war and the burden of all types of armaments,

Considering also that openness and transparency relating to all types of armaments would contribute greatly to confidence-building and security among States,

Recognizing that an enhanced level of transparency relating to both conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction and transfers of equipment and technologies directly related to the development and manufacture of such weapons, as well as to high technology with military applications, would promote stability, strengthen regional and international peace and security, and accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament,

Convinced that the principle of transparency should also apply to all weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and to transfers of equipment and technology directly related to the development and manufacture of such weapons, as well as to high technology with military applications,

Recognizing that the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms,[1] in its current form, constitutes an important first step towards the promotion of transparency in military matters on a comprehensive, universal and non-discriminatory basis,

[1] See resolution 46/36 L.

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Aware of the need to foster international efforts in this direction through, *inter alia*, the constant review of the operation of the Register with a view to its development,

Stressing the need to achieve universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[2] and of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction[3] and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[4] with a view to realizing the goal of the total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction,

Recalling its earlier resolutions on transparency in armaments,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on transparency in armaments;[5]

2. *Recalls* the reports of the Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, which convened in 1994 and 1997 to consider the continuing operation of the Register[1] and its development, and the views expressed and proposals presented therein;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving greater progress in the development of the Register in order that it may truly enhance confidence-building and security among States and accelerate efforts towards attainment of general and complete disarmament;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts to be convened in the year 2000 and taking into account the views submitted by Member States, to report to it at its fifty-fifth session on:

(a) The early expansion of the scope of the Register;

(b) The elaboration of practical means for the development of the Register in order to increase transparency related to weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and to transfers of equipment and technology directly related to the development and manufacture of such weapons;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Transparency in armaments".

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[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/47/27), appendix I.

[4] Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

[5] A/54/226 and Add.1.